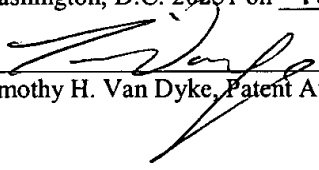


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#10/B

  
Timothy H. Van Dyke, Patent Attorney

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Bianchi *et al.*  
Application No: 09/782,594  
Filed: 2/12/2001  
Title: ASSEMBLED IMPLANT  
Docket No: RTI-112R

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To: Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.115**

Dear Sir:

Please amend this application as follows:

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-25, without prejudice.

Remarks

Claims 1-25 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any subject matter affected by this cancellation in copending or later filed divisional or continuation applications. Reconsideration and further examination is

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